

the established religion, but took part decisively with other powers against French domination, his people would be entirely at his disposal. He would not only establish his own house and the Catholic religion on a firm foundation, but be praised everywhere as the protector and preserver of the peace of Europe.¹

No warnings had any effect on James. His idea of coming to an agreement with his people and settling the question of the penal laws in a constitutional way was to pack a Parliament for the purpose. On December 11, 1687, he announced in the London Gazette that the list of deputy lieutenants and justices of the peace was to be revised, and only those were to be retained in office who supported the King's policy.

In the counties the Lord Lieutenants were to examine the deputy lieutenants and justices, make them answer certain test questions, and report these answers to the government. Those whose answers were unacceptable were to be turned out. A similar operation was to be applied to the municipal corporations. Aldermen and others who did not give satisfactory promises were to be reported to the government. Boroughs were to be bullied into resigning their charters, or their charters were to be annulled on some legal pretext and new ones granted, whose members were to be nominated by the King. As in many municipal boroughs

the election of Members of Parliament was entirely in the hands of the corporations, this would guarantee the return of pliable representatives.

Macaulay describes the operation of this scheme and gives some account of its results.² Amongst the Rawlinson

Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library are returns made by Lord Lieutenants and other agents, reporting the answers made by the justices and others in a number of counties, and

¹ Klopp, iii. 256.

^s II (viii).